

Town Council Meeting: 10 October 2005



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Shawaker called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Present were Councilmembers Altar, Benjamin, Bennett, Soltan, and Wegner. Also present was Town Administrator Pratt, Margaret Soltan from the *Bugle*, a reporter from the *Gazette*, as well as a number of Town residents.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Shawaker asked that the introduction of Ordinance 2005-04 be removed as it was still being edited. Councilmember Altar **MOVED**

That the amended agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Soltan and **PASSED** unanimously.

Presentations by Citizens: Resident Barbara Shidler reminded the Council that the Garrett Park Women's Club's annual *Attic In The Streets* was being held on Saturday, October 15th, along Kenilworth Avenue by Town Hall.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Shawaker announced that she was leaving Town from the evening of October 11th until the evening of October 23rd and was appointing Councilmember Bennett as Acting Mayor in her absence.

Councilmember's Reports:

- Councilmember Altar reported that over \$1,000 had been raised by G.I.V.E.S. for victims of Hurricane Katrina at the recent Weymouth St. block party and congratulated everyone involved for their generosity and efforts.
- Councilmember Wegner reported that he was in discussions with resident Walter Marable about the Town storm drains that ran through his property and that he expected to meet with Mr. Marable soon at his property to review the issues and the options available to the Town to resolve them.

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the minutes for the Council Meeting on 09/12/05 be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Soltan and **PASSED** unanimously.

Approved at the 12/12/05 Council Meeting

Action/Discussion:

- Town Hall Walkway Repair – Councilmember Bennett briefed the Council on the bids presented to the Town to repair the deteriorating walkway at the Town Hall, and recommended that the Town award the contract to the low bidder, Rosetta Landscape Management at \$8,755. Councilmember Bennett **MOVED**

That the contract for repairing the Town Hall walkway be awarded to Rosetta Landscape Management. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wegner and **PASSED** unanimously.

- Strathmore/Knowles Retaining Walls – Councilmember Wegner reported that over the past months he had obtained 6 bids for the installation of natural stone veneer on the retaining walls, that he had to visit the site of one more bidder's work, and hoped to have a comparative chart for the Council's review in the near future.
- Strathmore Lights – Councilmember Wegner reported that the State Highway Administration had agreed to lower wattage bulbs and would be changing the bulbs and ballasts in the installed lamps accordingly, that he had a sample of the translucent lenses that were to replace the clear lenses currently installed, and that he had prepared an extensive punch list for the entire project, working with residents in the affected areas.
- Introduction of Ordinance 2005-05: Amending Chapter 1. General Provisions: To allow County enforcement in Garrett Park of the recently adopted County Code regulation regarding improper public activity – Mayor Shawaker explained to the Council that the County had recently amended its own regulations in this area, and it was appropriate for the County to enforce the provisions. In order for that to happen, the Mayor pointed out, the Town had to add this new provision to its own code under Exception to General Exemption, Section 109 of the Town code. After brief discussion, Councilmember Soltan **MOVED**

That Ordinance 2005-05 be introduced, Amending the Garrett Park Code of Ordinances Section 109. Exception to General Exemption as follows: Insert under CHAPTER the number 32-17A between numbers 30B and 34, and under TITLE the words *Urination and Defecation In Public* between the words *Massage Establishments and Massage Technicians* and *Plumbing and Gas Fitting*. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Altar and **PASSED** unanimously. (The introduced ordinance is attached to these minutes)

- Speed Limit Ordinance – Councilmember Altar briefed the Council on the on-going development of the speed limit ordinance, noting that the Citizens Association was hosting a meeting on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:00 pm to discuss the issue.
- Washington Grove Questionnaire Re: Zoning – Councilmember Bennett asked that the Council consider performing a Town-wide survey to ascertain residents' views on various zoning and land-use issues similar to one that had been done in Washington Grove recently. There was discussion and Councilmembers Bennett, Soltan, and Benjamin agreed to form a

subcommittee of the Council to look into this. Resident Charles Berry asked if there would be outside professional review of any survey to assure its quality and Councilmember Soltan said he would speak to colleagues at the University of Maryland regarding such a review.

Information: Resident Chuck Berry asked about the status of the Penn Place Parking Committee. Councilmember Soltan indicated that he would like to present a resolution. After extended discussion, Councilmember Soltan **MOVED**

That the Council revive the Penn Place Parking Committee for the purpose of reviewing the plan developed by the Committee with Ballard engineering, reporting back to the Council as soon as possible. After further discussion the motion was seconded by Councilmember Wegner and **PASSED** unanimously.

Mayor Shawaker listed the committee members as being David Almy, John Bennett, Chuck Berry, Bob Calvert, Dennis Collins, Christopher Keller, Dick Pratt, with Hans Wegner as Council Liaison. She then appointed Bob Calvert as Chair

Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator Pratt distributed the monthly financial report, indicating that he and Councilmember Benjamin were working on refining the format. Administrator Pratt indicated that the FY 2005 Audit was nearly complete and should be in Councilmembers' hands before the November meeting. Administrator Pratt further reported that he was awaiting a quote for the Shelley Court Sinkhole Repair.

Adjournment: Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That upon adjournment the Council hold an executive session to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Soltan and **PASSED** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

[Town Seal]

Edwin Pratt, Jr., Clerk-Treasurer